HF Happenings 370

September 09

HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League   Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

September is Heritage month

Spring has sprung… and all that, Mother Nature still has one or two cold fronts up her sleeve, but we are packing away the winter woollies!

In September we have National Heritage Day (24 September) and celebrate that we are people of many colours, many races, many cultures, many languages, many religions and many origins. We are all tied to one another by a million visible and invisible threads that make us share a common destiny from which none of us can escape!

Many South Africans celebrate by participating in the National Braai Day (braai = barbeque) activities. As part of these celebrations, Radio Amateurs can participate in the Heritage Day Sprint [organised by the Sasolburg ARC] on 24 September. Set up a field station at a Anglo-Boer War blockhouse or a battle site or at any historical place in our country and join in the fun.

Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio

This item comes from Eddie, ZS6BNE.

Hans, ZS6AKV, and I were on our way back from Cape Town where we had attended the last RTA (Radio Technology in Action) program for 2009 and did our presentations there. The previous evening, during supper, we had discussed the latest initiatives in operating an amateur radio station in the field. We both agreed that it would be good to have a more professional name for the initiative.

It was at 12 000 meters above ground, when Hans came down the isle, "Have you thought of a name yet, Eddie?", "No not yet …" I replied and carried on thinking of a name. When we landed at Oliver Tambo airport, just after close on a two-hour flight, I spoke to Hans, "How does "RaDAR sound? ", "Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio." RaDAR was born there and then! Just to confirm, I sent an email to Hans the following morning asking if I could "Run" with the new name. Hans gave me his full support.

Originally, the idea involved operating on foot and away from any vehicle or building but that excluded others also prepared to operate in a portable fashion and so the concept was refined. The following list gives an idea of what RaDAR entails.

Guidelines. It is *desirable* that the RaDAR operator be able to:

- Operate an amateur radio station away from any building or vehicle but it is not a prerequisite.

September

2 Secretary's Day
4 Casual Day
5/6 RSGB SSB Field Day; IARU R1 SSB Field Day; All Asian DX SSB
7 Hamnet Bulletin 18:30
7 – 11 National Arbour Week
12/13 WAEDC SSB Contest
13 Spring QRP Sprint
14 Closing date HF CW logs
18 - 20 SARL VHF/UHF Contest
19 Rosh Hashanah [5770]
20 Eid-ul-Fitr
23 Schools close
24 Closing date Oct RAE
24 Heritage Day; Heritage Day Sprint; National Barbeque Day
25/26 Caledon 400
26/27 SAC SSB; CQ WW DX RTTY
27 World Tourism Day
28 Yom Kippur; closing date QRP logs
30 Closing date IARU R1 SSB Field Day

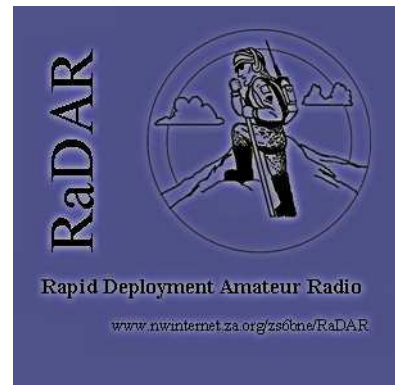Spring QRP Sprint 13 September; SARL VHF/UHF Contest 18 – 20 Sept

- Carry equipment, radios, antennas, masts, food, water and shelter to the final destination, in a vehicle, on foot or wheelchair.
- Determine accurate position and grid square to six digits. A map or GPS can be used.
- Provide power without relying on any third party. This can be in the form of solar panels, batteries or generators
- Communicate in a professional, accurate and effective manner. Good voice procedure is imperative to get the message through, clearly and accurately.
- Be self-sufficient. The RaDAR operator should be able to operate on his own without relying on any third party.

RaDAR Subdivisions, "On foot," "Mobile" and "Fixed."

Logos. It is always good to have a logo identifying the initiative, graphically. Two ideas were put forward. Many liked the "Radio Amateur" climbing a summit originally submitted by Mike, ZS6MEG. A comment from Andries, ZS6VL, "Maybe because I like the association between hiking and amateur radio and nature, the old one appealed more to me. The concept behind RaDAR remains great." I also liked the "old" logo. RaDAR has somewhat changed a little though expanding from an "On foot" operator to include other stations but emphasizing rapidly deployed, easily movable (OBJECTS), Amateur Radio stations.

A website was started for the RaDAR concept and is regularly updated. The URL is http://www.nwinternet.za.org/zs6bne/RaDAR/.

Public relations. An activity like RaDAR can attract attention from people passing by. An idea to have a "Business card" on hand came to mind and so the RaDAR business card was born! This card includes all contact information *and* the blood group of the RaDAR operator, a very good suggestion by Mike, ZS6MEG. Radio operators can get injured too!

Working together with other organizations. A valid question was asked on the SARL Forum by Jack Chomley, VK4JRC. How does the RaDAR concept fit in with Hamnet? Hamnet is an organisation. RaDAR is a concept supported by radio amateurs interested in being able to set up an amateur radio station anywhere and quickly! Hamnet could use radio amateurs with this type of readiness. Hamnet is affiliated to the SARL and the SARL supports the RaDAR concept! We are all just one happy family

A practical exercise. The company I work for, had a lot of fun on 4 September 2009, it was "Casual day." Each year, various departments decide on a theme. This year, the guys in the IT department decided on "Vietnam" and guess what, I was to be the "Radio guy." SO! It was an ideal opportunity to make it look authentic and include Amateur Radio. I set up an Echolink gateway (Alinco DR135 + Sound card interface) ZS6LRK-L at home, accessible via Echolink. I

was active, fully functional, from 07:40 to 08:00, before the MD decided on the winning theme. The local frequency used for the Echolink gateway, was 145.500 MHz Simplex. (Yes I know, it's "National call") I set up an APRS I-Gate as well (Yaesu FT847; KAM-XL and UI-View32).

My FT817ND was used for voice communications and TH-D7A(g) for APRS together with a Garmin Legend GPS for position info, as ZS6BNE-9. No calls were received via Echolink, being a difficult time of day for most, but I connected to the "Echotest server" and a machine replied from AMERICA! APRS worked great, also "Machines".

The exercise was a success. There was a weak link here though; it relied on the Internet and ADSL lines at the home QTH! In a real disaster situation, this infrastructure may no longer exist but it was OK for a demo of what Amateur Radio can do in rapid deployment of amateur radio communications.

The first "Official" exercise. The 24th of September 2009 is Heritage day. Many stations will be active. An ad was placed on the SARL Forum. A special spring 2009 event is being organised for 24 September 2009. It is a weekday and holiday (Thursday). Look out for all the "Heritage day" stations! Time: 14:00 - 17:00 CAT.
Frequencies and Power: Frequencies in the segment 7,000 to 7,025 MHz for CW and 7,060 to 7,100 MHz for phone can be used. Power, as little as is required for a "Comfortable" QSO.

The exchange is your call sign, RS(T) signal report, a serial number commencing with 001 and grid locator (6-digit) - in line with the "Heritage day" stations.

25 years of DX News

JUBILEUMS DX-nytt Nr. 300
Mandag 7. september 2009 fra LA4LN DX-nytt bulletin nummer 300 er herved publisert - vi takker LA4LN Tom for kjempeinn-sats gjennom en år-rekke

My good friend Tom Victor Segalstad, LA4LN, is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the LA4LN DX News bulletin published for the NRRL (Norwegian Radio Relay League).

This week Tom, LA4LN, who now has published weekly DX bulletins continuously for 25 years since 1985, published No 300 of DX News in the present format. It started as a part of the NRRL's official bulletin "QST-LA," which Tom edited for 5 years from 1985 to 1989, and transmitted in written form via digital modes from his station using NRRL's call sign LA9HQ. In addition, he served as the net control for the LA-DX-Group's weekly DX net, reading his DX bulletins every Sunday morning for 17 years from 1985 to 2001.

Tom also served as DX Manager for NRRL and the DX Editor for the NRRL journal "Amateur Radio" from 1992 to 1998 (when he was elected President of NRRL).

Tom has contributed weekly DX news for the local QST bulletins for the Oslo Division of NRRL since 2002, aired on the Oslo 2 m repeater. The weekly written DX News Bulletins in their present format started in 2003, and have been published on the web pages www.la4o.net and www.nrrl.no. These have now been published in 300 weekly issues, which gives a total continuous weekly DX News publishing for Norwegian radio amateurs over 25 years from Tom, LA4LN.

See http://www.la4o.net/Details.asp?aid=339 for Tom's latest DX News bulletin celebrating 25 years of DX publishing service. In addition, note the credit to HF Happenings!

Congratulations Tom and well done!

Spring QRP Sprint 13 September; SARL VHF/UHF Contest 18 – 20 Sept

DX Magazine's Most Wanted Survey

It is that time again to participate in DX Magazine's annual "Most Wanted Survey." The 2009 survey is now being taken until 15 October.

Carl, N4AA, editor of "QRZ DX" and "The DX Magazine," http://www.dxpub.com/, reports that the survey forms are available at http://www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2009.html

Please Note: Carl states, "THIS IS NOT - REPEAT NOT - A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL DXCC COUNTRIES. However, if you need something that is not on the list, you may add it at the bottom of the survey form in the COMMENTS box. Please pass the word to your DXer friends that the survey is up and running and will be there until 15 October."

DX from Africa

Malawi, 7Q. QSL Manager Allan, G0IAS, informs OPDX that Harry, 7Q7HB, (G0JMU), is again in Malawi for a period of up to 3 months. He is going to be active MAINLY on the Digital modes and CW. QSL as usual is ONLY DIRECT to G0IAS with sufficient funds for return cards. NO BUREAU cards. NO eQSLs. Just old-fashioned paper cards DIRECT! [OPDX]

Ethiopia, ET3. Jim, WU0I, currently in Addis Ababa as a US Foreign Service Officer, expects to be on the air by October as ET3JD after certain formalities are taken care for the importation of his amateur radio equipment. He expects to have his gear and the permission to use it completed within 2 weeks. Activity will be mainly 40, 20 and 15 metres, but he would also like to spend more time on the WARC bands - particularly 30 and 17 metres. Modes will be CW, SSB, PSK31 and possibly RTTY (for contests mostly). Jim mentions, "My CW is pretty rusty, so please be patient with me!" QSL only direct to Jim DeLoach, ET3JD, 2030 Addis Ababa Place, Dulles VA 20189-2030, USA.

For more details and updates, visit http://www.deloach.net/ET3JD.html. [OPDX]

Seychelles, S7. Mauro, HB9ENI, will be active as S79MI from Praslin Island (AF-024) from 21 to 26 October. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres using SSB and RTTY. He also plans to be on the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (24 to 25 October). QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. Log will be uploaded to LoTW. [OPDX]

Sudan, ST, Robert's, S53R, next work assignment (for UN WFP) has taken him here. He arrived in the Sudan early last week and expects to be on the air by the end of the month or early October. His possible call sign will be ST2X. He states, that his radio and amp are still in S5-land, but are expected to be shipped. More details are forthcoming. [OPDX]

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 31 August to 14 September 2009

FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend 00:00 UTC 11 September to 24:00 UTC 13 September Mode: CW	Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m Classes: Newcomer; Experienced Exchange: FISTS: RST, name, state, province or country, FISTS No and last 2-digits

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of year licensed; non-FISTS: RST, name, state, province or country, power and last 2-digits of year licensed
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with different class
1 point per QSO with same class
Multipliers: Each station worked licensed between 2000-2005 once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 October 2009
E-mail logs to: hallinl[at]lanecc[dot]edu
Mail logs to: Lee Hallin, N7NU, 3413 Walton Ln, Eugene, OR 97408, USA
Find rules at: www.fists.org/getfeetwet.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 September
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 September 2009
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.htm

PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80 m Sprint
20:00 local 11 September to 02:00 local 12 September
Mode: PSK31
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: QRP; Low Power; Medium Power
Max power: Medium Power: 100 watts; Low Power: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point/QSO
Multipliers: Each state, province and DXCC country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 11 October 2009

E-mail logs to: jbudzowski[at]verizon[dot]net
Mail logs to: Jay Budzowski, N3DQU, 109 S. Northview Ave., New Castle, PA 16102, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.podxs070.com//contests/80m_sprint_rules09.htm

WAE DX SSB Contest
00:00 UTC 12 September to 23:59 UTC 13 September
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op (High/Low); Multi-Op; SWL
Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours, off times in 1 to 3 parts; Multi-Single: 48 hours
Max power: HP: >100 Watts; LP: 100 Watts
Exchange: RS and Serial No
Work stations: Once per band
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 28 September 2009
E-mail logs to:
waessb[at]dxhf[dot]darc[dot]de
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/xedcwr.htm

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 September
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 September 2009
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.htm

Swiss HTC QRP Sprint
13:00 - 19:00 UTC 12 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m

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Classes: VLP (1 W or less); QRP (5 W or less); QRO (more than 5 W)

Exchange: RST, "/", Class, "/", canton, province, etc., "/" and first name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with VLP station; 2 points per QSO with QRP station; 1 point per QSO with QRO station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 12 October 2009

E-mail logs to: HB9BQB[at]uska[dot]ch

Mail logs to: Guido Giannini, HB9BQB, Kleinzelglistrasse 6, CH-8952 Schlieren, Switzerland

Find rules at:
http://www.htc.ch/HTC_Sprint_Formulare/Swiss%20HTC%20QRP%20Sprint%20E%20Ver_2008.pdf

Arkansas QSO Party

14:00 UTC 12 September to 06:00 UTC 13 September and 15:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 September

Mode: CW, Phone and/or Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 2 m

Classes: Single Op CW, Phone or Mixed – QRP, Low or High; Single Op Mobile Low Power; Single Op PSK – QRP or Regular; Multi-Single – QRP, Low or High; Youth; Club

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: AR: RS(T) and County; non-AR: RS(T), state, province, MM Region or "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO; 3 points per digital QSO

Bonus: 10 points per QSO with any AR section ARRL affiliated club (once per band)

Multipliers: AR Stations: Each state or province once per band; AR Stations: Each DXCC country (max=30) once per band; non-AR Stations: Each AR county once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 13 October 2009

E-mail logs to: info[at]arkanhams[dot]org

Mail logs to: ARKAN - AA5AR, PO Box 9701, Fayetteville, AR 72703, USA

Find rules at:
http://www.arkanhams.org/Documents/AR%20QSO%20Party%20Long%20Form%2006 01 08.pdf

Ohio State Parks on the Air

16:00 - 24:00 UTC 12 September

Mode: CW, Phone and Digital

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 m

Classes: Single Op OH Park – Low or High; Single Op; Multi-Op OH Park – Low or High

Max power: LP: 10 watts; HP: >10 watts

Exchange: OH Park: "OH" and park abbreviation; OH: "OH"; W/VE: state or province; DX: "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: each OH Park once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12 October 2009

E-mail logs to: chuckw8pt[at]gmail[dot]com

Mail logs to: Ohio State Parks on the Air, c/o Chuck Patellis, W8PT, PO Box 707, Parkman, OH 44080, USA

Find rules at:
http://parks.portcars.org/ospota/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/OSPOTA-Rules.pdf

SOC Marathon Sprint

18:00 - 24:00 UTC 12 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Member: RST, state, province or country and SOC No; non-Member: RST, state, province or country and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with member; 4 points per QSO with non-member, different continent; 2 points per QSO with non-member, same continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, country once per band

Power mult: 0 – 250 mW x 15, 250 mW – 1 W x 10, 1 – 5 W x 7, >5 W x 1

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Key mult: x 1.5 for use of homebrew paddle
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x power mult x key mult
Submit logs by: 12 October 2009
E-mail logs to: n4bp[at]bellsouth[dot]net
Mail logs to: Bob Patten, N4BP, 2841 N.W. 112 Terrace, Plantation, FL 33323, USA
Find rules at: www.qsl.net/soc/090912.htm

North American CW Sprint
00:00 - 04:00 UTC 13 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m
Classes: Single Op – QRP, Low or High
Max operating hours: 4 hours
Max power: HP: 1500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7) once; Each VE province once; Each North American country (except W/VE) once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 September 2009

E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)
Upload log at:
http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit.php
Mail logs to: Boring Amateur Radio Club, 15125 Bartell Road, Boring, OR 97009, USA
Find rules at:
www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php

SKCC Weekend Sprint
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, Name, state, province or country and SKCC No or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 18 September 2009
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/wes-submit.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 17 September
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 September
AGB NEMIGA Contest, 21:00 - 24:00 UTC 18 September
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 September
SARL VHF/UHF Contest, 10:00 UTC 19 September to 10:00 UTC 20 September
CIS DX QPSK63 Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 September to 12:00 UTC 20 September
Scandinavian Activity CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 September to 12:00 UTC 20 September
South Carolina QSO Party, 13:00 UTC 19 September to 21:00 UTC 20 September
QRP Afield, 15:00 UTC 19 September to 03:00 UTC 20 September
Washington State Salmon Run, 16:00 UTC 19 September to 07:00 UTC and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 20 September
Feld Hell Sprint, 17:00 – 20:00 UTC 19 September
QCWA Fall QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 19 September to 18:00 UTC 20 September
North American SSB Sprint, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 September
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 September

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This week in History

1869 This week the ARRL celebrates the 140th anniversary of the birth of the ARRL co-founder and first President, Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW! Maxim was born on 2 September 1869

1887 Edison patents the 'Kinetoscope' device, which produces moving pictures.

1896 Marconi demonstrates wireless to the British PO, Army and Navy over a distance of 2,5 km

1920 First radio news program on station 8MK, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

Spring QRP Sprint

This is a fun activity to promote QRP contacts between radio amateurs in Southern African countries (General Rules para 1.b.)

The Sprint will be run on the second Sunday of September, 13 September, from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC or 14:00 to 16:00 CAT.

Participation as a Portable or Fixed Station using CW, Phone or Mixed and running 5 watt, 1 watt or 100 milliwatt.

The exchange is a RS(T) report and the year first licensed (e.g. 59 89). It is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band - 7,000 to 7,025 MHz and 7,060 to 7,100 MHz. Only wire antennas may be used

Scoring - Each contact counts 2 points and each prefix worked counts 2 points. Multiply the QSO score with the prefix score and multiply with the power multiplier = 5 watt x 1, 1 watt x 5 or 100 milliwatt x 10 = (QSO score X prefix score) X power multiplier.

Log sheets shall be submitted within 15 days after the contest and can be sent by e-mail to hfcontests@netactive.co.za or by snail mail to The Contest Committee, PO Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324. The closing date for log submissions is 28 September 2009.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, Q-News, the RSGB News, Maurice, F5NQL, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

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